

TELEGRAM

Foreign Service of the
United States of America

INCOMING

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

POL 29

P 121930Z MAY 76

FM AMCONSUL RECIFE

TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY 1976

BT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE RECIFE 0084

7962

MAY 12 1976

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, BR

SUBJECT: REPORT OF TORTURE IN RECIFE

REF: STATE 113663

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1. FOUR POLITICAL PRISONERS HELD IN THE ITAMARACA ISLAND MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON NEAR RECIFE CLAIMED THROUGH THEIR LAWYER ON 19 APRIL 1976 THAT THEY HAD BEEN TORTURED AT THE AIR FORCE POLICE SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS IN RECIFE ON APRIL 1 AND 2. THE PRISONERS INVOLVED WERE: JOSE CALIXTRATO CARDOSO FILHO, JOSE ADEILDO RAMOS, JOSE EMILSON RIBEIRO DA SILVA, AND CLAUDIO DESSOUZA RIBEIRO.

2. THE INMATES FOUND GUILTY SEVERAL YEARS AGO UNDER BRAZIL'S NATIONAL SECURITY LAW FOR ENGAGING IN SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES, ARE PART OF A GROUP OF APPROXIMATELY 25 POLITICAL PRISONERS HELD IN THE SAME PRISON. THIS GROUP HAS ENGAGED IN 2 PROLONGED HUNGER STRIKES DURING THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS IN AN EFFORT TO FORCE THE AUTHORITIES TO IMPROVE SUCH THINGS AS THEIR FOOD, VISITING PRIVILEGES, DORMITORIES, ETC. (DETAILS OF THE STRIKES ARE GIVEN IN RECIFE WJAP-UPS 9, 12 AND 13.)

3. DURING THE COURSE OF THE SECOND HUNGER STRIKE (OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 1975), SEVERAL OF THE PRISONERS WERE REMOVED TO VARIOUS MILITARY HOSPITALS IN THE RECIFE AREA TO SAFEGUARD THEIR HEALTH. THE 4 IN QUESTION WERE APPARENTLY ASSIGNED TO THE BRAZILIAN AIR FORCE HOSPITAL IN THE CITY AND WERE KEPT UNTIL THEY ENDED THE STRIKE AND WERE NURSED BACK TO STRENGTH. THEY WERE THEN RETURNED TO THE ITAMARACA PRISON SOMETIME IN DECEMBER OR JANUARY 1976.

4. FOR REASONS UNKNOWN TO POST THESE 4 PRISONERS WERE PICKED UP ON APRIL 1 AND TAKEN TO THE AIR FORCE POLICE SQUADRON WHERE THEY CLAIM TO HAVE BEEN BEATEN, GIVEN ELECTRIC SHOCK TREATMENT, AND HUNG UP ON THE PARROT'S PERCH (PAU DE ARARA). THEY WERE RELEASED THE NEXT DAY AND RETURNED TO PRISON, AND PLACED IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT.

5. THEY APPARENTLY WERE ABLE TO DESCRIBE THEIR TREATMENT IN A DOCUMENT WHICH WAS PASSED TO THEIR LAWYER, WHO IN TURN PRESENTED IT TO THE SUPREME MILITARY TRIBUNAL (STM) IN BRASILIA ON APRIL 19. (THIS MAY BE THE DOCUMENT MENTIONED IN REFTEL.) THE LAWYER ASKED FOR AN INVESTIGATION OF THE ALLEGATIONS, THAT THE COURT'S PRESIDENT SAFEGUARD THE LIFE OF THE PRISONERS, AND PROVIDE THEM WITH MEDICAL TREATMENT. THE STM, WHICH SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF THE CASE IN ADVANCE, RESPONDED THAT THE PRISONERS HAD BEEN INTERROGATED "WITHOUT PHYSICAL OR MORAL COERCION."

6. THOUGH THE LOCAL PRESS GAVE NO COVERAGE TO THE CASE, THE STORY (PARA. 4 AND 5) WAS CARRIED IN THE NATIONAL CIRCULATION NEWSPAPER, ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, ON APRIL 24, 1976.
BROWN